

Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

The Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) met on Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 5:00PM in the Vermillion County Emergency Response Office in Clinton, Indiana.

Call to Order

Cliff Wojtalewicz called the CAC meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum

Rick Card conducted the roll call, and it was determined there was a quorum present.

The following CAC members were present:

Larry Bemis
Rod Bosley
Ramon Colombo
Tom Linson
Rev. Cleytus Malone

Dr. Fred Martin
Dick Setliff
Cliff Wojtalewicz

The following CAC member was absent:

Pamela Ferguson

Other Attendees

Leonard Akers
Jesse Barber
Jeff Brubaker
Rodney Buchanan
Rick Card
Ginger Corado
Ron DeGuire
Darla Eslinger
Enrico Garcia
Clara Galbis-Reig
Susan Gilman
Rick Goetz
Jeff Gum
Leonard Helt
Lou Jackson
Tom Kutz
Bob Lintelman
Anna Lowe

Kirt Lowry
Gregory J. Mahall
Sandra Maxfield
William Maxfield
Mike Phelps
Doug Reel
Bill Rennels
Scott Rowden
Mary Silotto
Robert Spence
Barbara Stewart
Douglas Stroud
Margaret Thompson
Tom Walker
Bobette Warnick
David Weddle
Joe Whitaker
Lauren Zuber

Remarks by Rick Card

Rick Card reported that he is a Field Coordinator as well as the CSEPP Program Manager, and his office is located in Rockville at the National Guard Armory. Jerry Sears is taking over District 7.

Remarks by Cliff Wojtalewicz

Cliff Wojtalewicz reported that upon the inception of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security approximately two years ago, Rick Card was designated as a Chief Planner in the Planning division. Rick is being reassigned as a Field Coordinator and has a lot of knowledge regarding planning, training and exercise, and operations at the State level. We felt comfortable putting Rick in this position because he can relate to what we are doing in Indianapolis, and we see it as a perfect fit. If you have any questions about the mindset or the direction we are going in, then Rick can answer those questions very well and will be an advocate for all three counties.

Approval of minutes

Cliff Wojtalewicz asked that the minutes from the September 12, 2006 be reviewed. The commission adopted the minutes by consent.

Remarks by Jeff Brubaker

Jeff Brubaker welcomed Doug Reel, site manager for Parsons. Jeff reported that in regards to the destruction of VX; 1.2 million pounds of VX has been successfully and safely destroyed and neutralized. For the most part, there have been consistent and reliable operations at the plant, and things are going very well. In terms of the product from neutralization of the caustic waste water of the hydrolysate, there are 200 containers in permitted storage representing over 700,000 gallons.

The recent accomplishments are as follows: In May of 2005 there were eight (8) agent lots; two (2) lots have been successfully destroyed; and two (2) additional lots are almost complete. DuPont Corporation announced in January 2007, they were no longer able to transport the hydrolysate. A number of options are being evaluated to replace DuPont Corporation. Renovations of two (2) facilities at the Depot were completed. These facilities will store the solid hazardous waste. There are currently four (4) storage facilities. A two (2) day technical review was conducted with the National Research Council to discuss the disposal of secondary waste. The plan is to dispose of these secondary wastes within the next three (3) to six (6) months. Competitive bids are being sought for commercial facilities to recycle thermally type containers. Starting last summer we began looking towards the last phase which is the closure phase. We are working hard on developing a revision to the closure plan. We meet regularly with the Newport Chemical Depot and IDEM. Later this year, the Army will be submitting the revision request as a permit modification to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The target completion date to finish the agent destruction is the

summer of 2008. However, we will continue to work on some initiatives that will help us further accelerate that completion date. By late 2009 to early 2010, the project should be completed. The transition for the closure of the Depot will begin.

Remarks by Col. Jesse Barber

Col. Jesse Barber reported on the history of the CAC leading up to today. In December 2003, Col. Barber met with the CAC and the community and presented the recommendation, which was utilization of an off-site commercial treatment and storage disposal facility to take care of the waste water/hydrolysate coming out of Newport.

Over the past four (4) years, there have been a number of studies conducted versus off-site or what other technologies are available. The study showed the average facility which did utilize the off-site disposal of caustic waste water and its disposal technique was able to return back to the American taxpayers \$240 million.

The Army finally narrowed down a solution and entered the procurement process. One of the suggestions was from Ms. Morgan, who recommended that we reach-out to the community and seek opinions from fishermen in the area. It is important to note that after being informed about the program, many citizens agreed with the program and even voiced support to the Federal government's decisions

In July 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) approved the program, and they agreed that hydrolystate could be safely transported across the United States to the DuPont facilities. For instance, there are over 800,000 hazardous waste shipments on our nation's highways. Most people, however, do not recognize this because the Department of Transportation sets criteria for shipments, and if the shipment meets the criteria, then the shipment is deemed safe for transportation.

After beginning the option review process, many throughout the nation most likely would not have imagined the success thus far. Almost 50% of the stock pile has been destroyed. The workers have met the initial 45% standard/milestone. We need to give credit to those who deserve it. Furthermore, solutions must fit within the funding profile and utilize the highest technology possible (also must be mature technologically). If we cannot do this, then we shall look at other options for post-2007. A solution must be implemented to meet the standards (to take it to the Army senior leaders – and the cut off was March 16, 2007). After meetings with technical staff, a quick review of the options and comments were provided. The final option analysis is currently underway.

The preliminary results were as follows: There are three technologies that could work with further maturation. Be aware, however, that each of the options requires military construction money and research and development money (R&D), neither of which is in the current budget profile. The earliest that we can program such funds is fiscal-year (FY) 2009, because fiscal-year (FY) 2008 budget has already been presented by the President. There are also six (6) off-site options offered. Some of the options require

additional processing equipment and/or permit modifications. For the near future, my staff will continue to work on a solution. A solution, which is in compliance with National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and within the budget restraints, ought to be presented to senior military officials and to this commission soon.

Question: A lady, who identified herself as representing over two-hundred private citizens, voiced support for hydrolystate to be treated on-site and not shipped across the nation. A chief concern is keeping it on-site; after all, there could be accidents (e.g., environmental problems, public safety concerns, etc) with shipments. Furthermore, we would like for it to stay here because of economic interests (e.g. jobs). We believe that hydrolysate is being stored safely and can await final treatment here in Indiana. Again, safety is our chief concern, along with the interest of the environment. Therefore, has the decision to ship been made?

Response: In December 2003, we said that the best solution is off-site disposal. Both off-site and on-site technologies have been evaluated, and after the evaluation, the best economic value is to pursue off-site disposal. In addition, every review completed yielded clear results: Hydrolystate can be transported across the nation safely. And for the length of this project, the probability of an accident occurring is less than one. A final decision has not been made to ship the hydrolysate.

Question: What states are currently under consideration for shipment?

Response: The states include: Utah, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Question: What type of safety precautions will be implemented once a shipment route is picked?

Response: Standard hazmat shipment precautions will be taken. And spill response actions will be completed by the transporter and/or vendor, since they have taken on the process of shipping.

Questions: Will State officials be notified by the military if shipments are to occur?

Response: In accordance with Indiana Public Law 172 of 2005, the State must be informed if shipment occurs.

Question: Are public officials, both State and Federal, informed and kept up-to-date on actions and/or possible actions (e.g., shipment)?

Response: I met and continue to meet with both State officials and Members of the Indiana Congressional delegation. I do not inform other officials outside of the State of Indiana.

Question: Another gentleman is now addressing Col. Barber. Will the public be properly informed through venues of communication (e.g., public media)? Will this become public knowledge?

Response: Some media has agreed to print information in regards to the project. It is important to note: The media is not required to print the news. It is up to them. But yes, the public has a right to know some of this information.

Remarks by Tom Linson

Tom Linson reported on activities and oversight for environmental activity by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). IDEM is making sure that everything they (those who are working with hydrolystate) do is in compliance with State laws.

One activity that IDEM has been working on with the facility is a transport safety plan. If hydrolystate should be shipped, then a transport safety plan must be in place prior to shipment, in accordance with State law. Progress has been made on the shipment process and keeping the public and environment safe.

IDEM has been in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to properly identify all the hazards and risks with transporting hydrolystate. IDEM has identified those elements of hydrolystate that are not very common organic compounds and proper steps are being taken should they be released into the environment.

Newport Outreach and Activities Update

Susan Gilman reported progress since last September. Some of the progress includes: (1) The outreach office was moved to Clinton, and there have been more walk-in visitors, since it is more easily accessible to the community; (2) We went to the Indiana Preparedness for Weapons of Mass Destruction group; (3) After the elections, the newly elected officials were taken on a tour of the facility; (4) We just finished a new informational flyer, and the flyer was distributed to about 10,000 individuals; and (5) We are going to request feedback from the community, in relation to information on the closing of the Depot.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting

Will be announced at a later date (July/August timeframe).

Adjournment

Mr. Rod Bosley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Dr. Fred Martin and with no further discussion MOTION CARRIED. Meeting Adjourned.